WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for aircraft telecommunications comprising the steps of:

identifying a current service volume;

identifying an available VHF communications channel frequency from a table of preferred VHF communications frequencies associated with said current service volume;

selecting a preferred communications attribute from a table of attributes associated with said current service volume and according to said available VHF communications channel frequency; and

effecting airborne communications utilizing said preferred communications attribute.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said predefined service volumes comprise geographic regions other than rectangular regions.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said service volumes further include at least one subset of area.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred communications attribute includes the step of selecting a VHF communications channel.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred communications attribute includes the step of selecting a SATCOM communications channel.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred communications attribute includes the step of selecting an HF communications channel.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of manually selecting a second preferred communications attribute different than said preferred communications attribute.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a current service volume further comprises the steps of:

determining a current aircraft position; and

comparing said current aircraft position with a set of predefined service volumes to identify the current service volume encompassing said current aircraft position.

9. A method for aircraft telecommunications comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of service volumes having nonrectangular boundaries;

associating a set of preferred communications attributes with each of said plurality of service volumes;

identifying a current service volume;

selecting a preferred communications attribute from said set of preferred communications attributes associated with said current service volume; and

effecting airborne communications utilizing said preferred communications attribute.

10. The method of aircraft telecommunications of claim 9 wherein said step of selecting a preferred communications attribute further comprises the step of selecting a preferred communications channel.

11. The method of aircraft telecommunications of claim 9 wherein said step of defining a plurality of service volumes further comprises the step of defining at least one area located within at least one service volume.

12. The method of aircraft telecommunications of claim 9 wherein said step of identifying a current service volume comprises the step of identifying a current position of the aircraft.

13. A computer program product for use on an aircraft, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a first computer instruction means for identifying a current service volume to be used for airborne communications;

a second computer instruction means for identifying an available VHF communications channel frequency from a table of preferred VHF communications frequencies associated with said current service volume;

a third computer instruction for selecting a preferred communications attribute from a table of attributes associated with said current service volume and according to said available VHF communications channel frequency; and

a fourth computer instruction means for effecting airborne communications utilizing said preferred communications attribute.

14. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said first computer instruction means further includes a fifth computer instruction means for reading a current position of the aircraft.

15. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said fourth computer instruction means selects a preferred communications channel.

16. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said first computer instruction means further includes a fifth computer instruction means for identifying a current service area located within said current service volume.

17. A communications apparatus for effecting airborne communications comprising:

an input for receiving a message to be transmitted from an aircraft;

a logic device for identifying a preferred communications attribute to be utilized in transmitting said message as a function of: a service volume; and at least one of a VHF frequency preference and a channel preference; and

a router for effecting airborne communications according to said preferred communications attribute.

18. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said logic device comprises a computer readable medium.

19. The communications apparatus of claim 18 wherein said computer readable medium comprises a PCMCIA card.

20. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said logic device comprises a programmable logic device.

21. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said input is coupled to receive a position information of the aircraft and wherein said preferred communications attribute is determined according to said position information.

22. The communications apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a controller useful for controlling display of communications information on a cockpit display.

23. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus comprises a CMU.

24. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus comprises an Air Traffic Service Unit (ATSU).

25. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus comprises a Data Management Unit (DMU).

26. The communications apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus comprises an Airborne Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) Management Unit.